



## SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

## CLEAN VERSION

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### SKELETAL IMPLANT RELATED APPLICATION

**[0001]** The present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/200,855, filed November 30, 1998, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Application No. 09/200,855 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/897,673, filed on July 21, 1997, now abandoned, the priority of which is claimed under 35 USC 120 and the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety. Further, the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of French Patent Application No. 9609157 filed on July 22, 1996 and French Patent Application No. 9805549 filed on April 30, 1998, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference thereto in their entireties.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The present invention relates to a skeletal implant, and more particularly to an implant of this type to be used for connecting at least two elements of the skeleton, which implant is embodied in at least two parts, each of which is capable of being connected to one of these elements.

**[0003]** According to a first aspect of the invention, it relates to a consolidating and/or connecting implant, and more particularly to an implant of this type to be used to consolidate a connection between two bone elements, of the type comprising a first part designed to be attached to one of the elements and a second part designed to be attached to the other element.

#### 2. Background and Material Information